

February 28, 2011

**KENTUCKY:** The Commonwealth experienced near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation during the first week of February. This past week was the first full week of the year with above normal precipitation. Most of the precipitation came in on Tuesday and Wednesday from a very powerful low pressure system that passed just to the north of the state. Temperatures for the period averaged 35 degrees across the state which was near normal and no change to the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 39 in the West to 45 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 21 degrees in the West to 29 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.94 inches statewide which was 0.07 inches above normal and 108% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.89 inches, Central 1.05 inches, Bluegrass 1.28 inches and East 0.54 inches, which was -0.05, 0.10, 0.53 and -0.29 inches respectively from normal.

The second week of the month as a whole was bitterly cold. The week started off just a bit below normal; however by Thursday and Friday lows were dipping down to the negatives in several locations. Conditions changed rapidly across the Commonwealth by the end of the weekend, with highs in the 50s and low 60s on Sunday. Light precipitation could be seen across the state all through the middle of the week, but overall it was below normal. Most of the precipitation came as snowfall. Latest U.S. Drought Monitor has around 40% of the state abnormally dry and about 8% still in severe drought. Temperatures for the period averaged 28 degrees across the state which was 8 degrees cooler than normal and 8 degrees cooler than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 35 in the West to 40 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 13 degrees in the West to 20 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.45 inches statewide which was 0.44 inches below normal and 50% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.51 inches, Central 0.58 inches, Bluegrass 0.38 inches and East 0.32 inches, which was 0.48, 0.39, 0.39 and 0.52 inches below normal.

The third week of February was warm. High temperatures were above normal most days, and multiple locations even reached the 70s. The Commonwealth did not receive much precipitation during the week. The majority of the state did not even receive a tenth of an inch of rainfall. This leaves around 42% of the state abnormally dry, while about 8% is still in severe drought. Temperatures for the period averaged 50 degrees across the state which was 12 degrees warmer than normal and 22 degrees warmer than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 62 in the West to 60 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 36 degrees in the West to 38 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.08 inches statewide which was 0.83 inches below normal and 9% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.06 inches, Central 0.12 inches, Bluegrass 0.05 inches and East 0.08 inches, which was 0.96, 0.86, 0.73 and 0.77 inches below normal.

The Commonwealth finally received a wet week during the last full week of the month. This was the first time since late last November that the state received over an inch of normal precipitation. Western and central parts of the state got the most rainfall, while eastern parts of the state got the least. Temperatures were also above normal for the second straight week, due to the warm moist southerly flow. Temperatures for the period averaged 46 degrees across the state which was 5 degrees warmer than normal and 4 degrees cooler than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 53 in the West to 57 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 27 degrees in the West to 39 degrees in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 2.85 inches statewide which was 1.87 inches above normal and 292% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 3.27 inches, Central 3.11 inches, Bluegrass 2.92 inches and East 2.08 inches, which was 2.17, 2.06, 2.07 and 1.17 inches above normal.

Farmers were kept busy tending to their livestock and performing routine equipment maintenance. Producers marketed their grain and tobacco crops and attended various commodity meetings across the state. Farmers continue making planting decisions for the upcoming 2011 crop season. Costs of inputs and rental agreements are being weighed against anticipated selling prices.